



Maputo, Mozambique
19 October 2023

News release

Majority of Mozambicans say government has been effective in resolving conflict in Cabo Delgado, Afrobarometer study shows

A majority of Mozambicans believe that the government has been at least somewhat effective in its efforts to address the problem of armed extremism in the country, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

But while a slim majority express confidence in the government's ability to resolve the conflict, more think Rwanda and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) could make a difference.

Citizens' views vary widely on who supports extremist groups, why people join such groups, and what would be the best strategy for addressing the conflict.

Since the beginning of armed conflict in the Cabo Delgado province in 2017, the government has responded with the national army as well as diplomatic efforts to secure international support, including interventions by SADC and the Rwandan military.

Key findings

- Nearly seven in 10 citizens (69%) say the Mozambican government has been "very effective" (26%) or "somewhat effective" (43%) in its efforts to address the problem of armed extremists in the country (Figure 1).
- More than half of Mozambicans express "some" (20%) or "a lot" (33%) of confidence in their government's ability to help end the conflict in Cabo Delgado. More express confidence in SADC (62%) and Rwanda (61%) to help resolve the conflict (Figure 2).
- Citizens offer a variety of suggestions for the best strategy to address the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado, including seeking outside military support (27%), negotiating with the armed groups (22%), working with local leaders (19%), improving the economy and creating more jobs (15%), and providing better government services (7%) (Figure 3).
- Similarly, views on what causes people to join extremist groups are varied, including poverty (25%), unemployment (13%), and being forced by the extremists (11%) (Figure 4).
- About three in 10 Mozambicans think that Islamic groups (37%), local people (32%), and foreign governments (32%) are involved in supporting and assisting the extremist groups that have launched attacks and kidnappings in Mozambique, while about one-quarter believe that political parties (27%) and private companies (23%) are involved (Figure 5).

Afrobarometer surveys

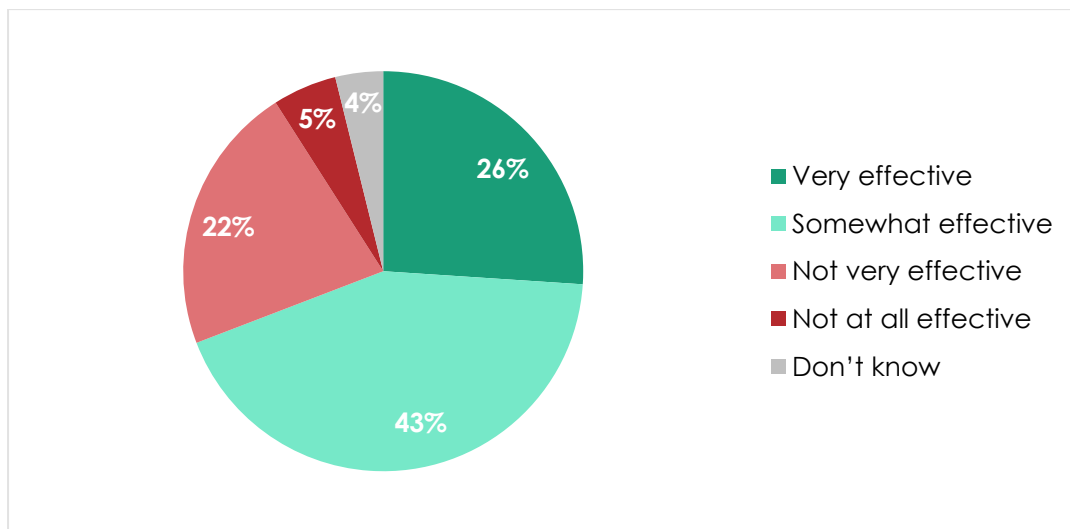
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 42 countries since 1999. Round 9

surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Mozambique, led by Ipsos, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,120 adult Mozambicans in October, November, and December, 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Mozambique in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

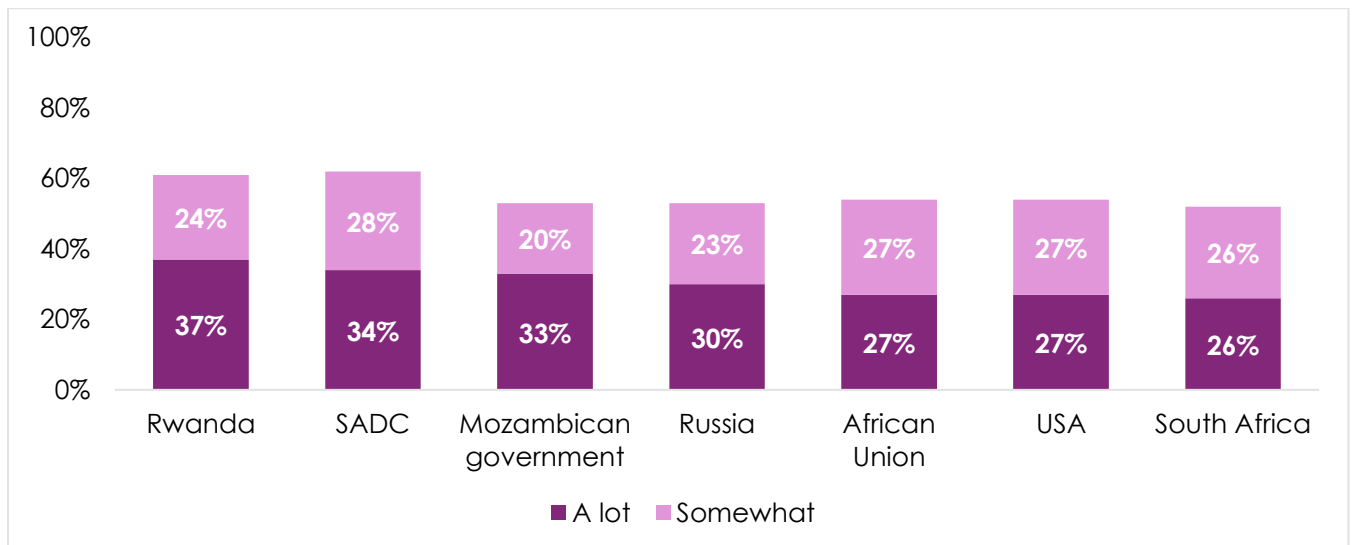
Charts

Figure 1: Government effectiveness in addressing armed extremists | Mozambique | 2022



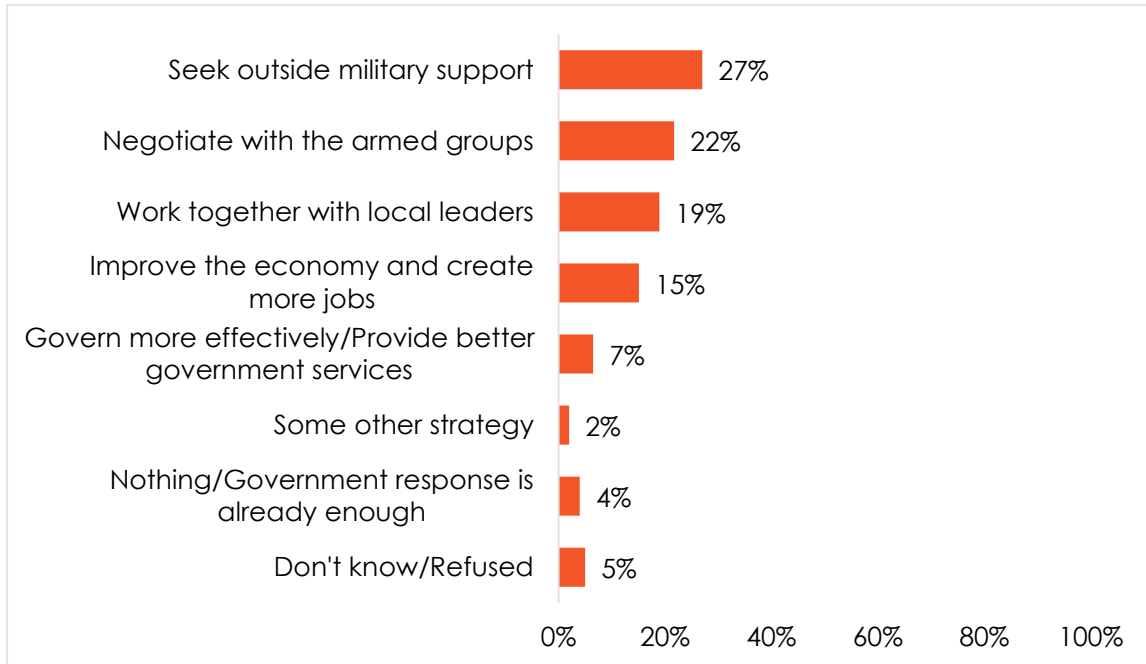
Respondents were asked: How effective do you think the Mozambican government has been in its efforts to address the problem of armed extremists in this country?

Figure 2: Confidence in ability to help resolve conflict in Cabo Delgado | Mozambique | 2022



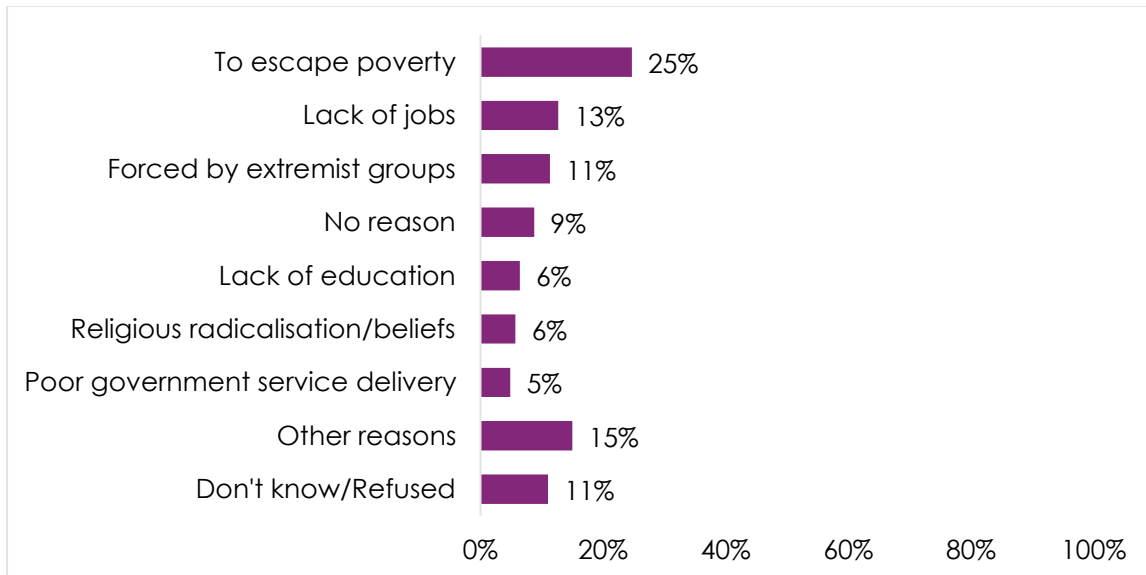
Respondents were asked: How much confidence do you have in each of the following actors to help in resolving the conflict in Cabo Delgado?

Figure 3: Best strategy to address conflict in Cabo Delgado | Mozambique | 2022



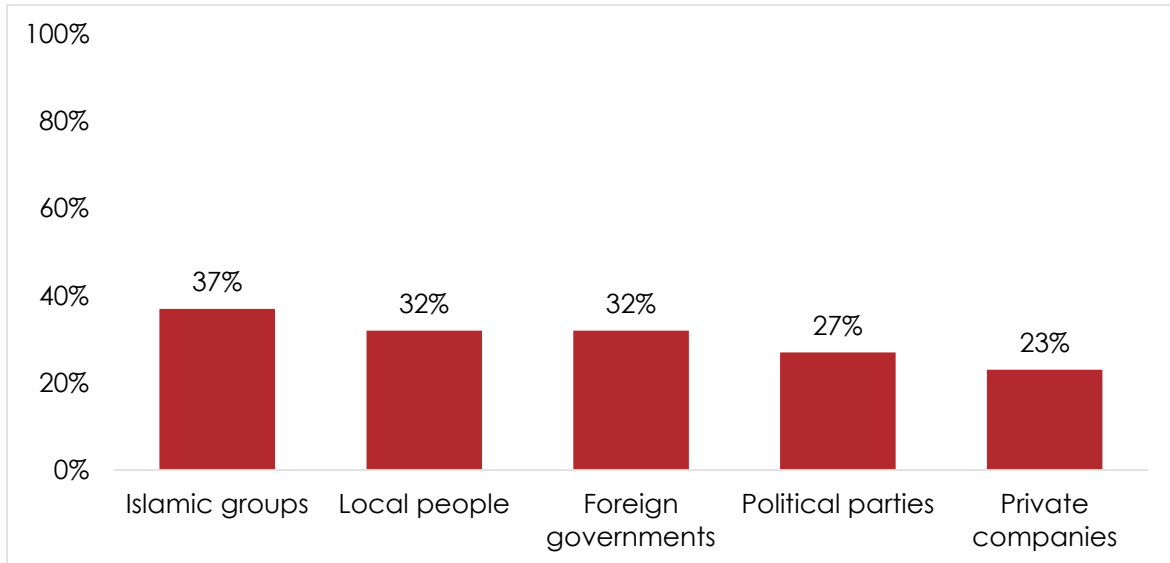
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, which of the following factors would you say would be the best strategy to address the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado?

Figure 4: Main reason people join extremist groups | Mozambique | 2022



Respondents were asked: There are many reasons why people join armed extremist groups in Cabo Delgado. In your opinion, what would you say is the main reason people join extremist groups in our country?

Figure 5: Who supports extremist groups? | Mozambique | 2022



Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in supporting and assisting the extremist groups that have launched attacks and kidnappings in Mozambique, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

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